

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of forming a colored bright anodized coating on a surface of an aluminum alloy article, [when] where said alloy contains more than three percent by weight magnesium;

anodizing said surface in an aqueous sulfuric acid bath containing 100 to 200 grams of sulfuric acid per liter of bath at a temperature [and a] in the range of 18 to 25°C and at a current density in the range of about 3 A/ft² to 10 A/ft² that produces a desired thickness of a clear anodized layer suitable for color finishing; and

coloring said clear anodized layer to produce said colored coating.

2. (canceled)

C/ 3. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 [or 2] in which the following step is conducted prior to said anodizing step,

immersing said surface to be anodized in an aqueous acid solution at a temperature below about 100°F, said solution comprising one or more mineral acids selected from the group consisting of, by weight, ten to twenty percent sulfuric acid, ten to thirty percent nitric acid, and forty to eighty percent phosphoric acid until the magnesium content in said surface is reduced to less than three percent and to produce a glossy surface.

4. (previously amended) A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising, during said immersing step, establishing said surface as an anode in a direct current circuit with said solution as an electrolyte and applying a direct current voltage of 10 to 25 volts to said surface.

5. (previously amended) A method of making a body component for an automotive vehicle, said component comprising a formed sheet of an aluminum alloy containing more than about four percent by weight magnesium, said method comprising

forming said sheet into a body component having a surface requiring a decorative finish,

anodizing said surface in an aqueous sulfuric acid bath comprising 100 to 200 grams per liter of sulfuric acid at a temperature in the range of about 18 to 25°C and at a current density in the range of about three to no more than ten amperes per square foot of said surface to form a clear coating of aluminum oxide having a thickness of about ten to 25 micrometers, and

coloring said clear coating of aluminum oxide to produce said decorative finish.

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Cont'd
6. (original) A method as recited in claim 5 in which the following step is conducted prior to said anodizing step,

immersing said surface to be anodized in an aqueous acid solution at a temperature below about 100°F, said solution comprising one or more mineral acids selected from the group consisting of, by weight, ten to twenty percent sulfuric acid, ten to thirty percent nitric acid, and forty to eighty percent phosphoric acid until the magnesium content in said surface is reduced to less than three percent and to produce a glossy surface.

7. (previously amended) A method as recited in claim 6 further comprising, during said immersing step, establishing said surface as an anode in a direct current circuit with said solution as an electrolyte and applying a direct current voltage of 10 to 25 volts to said surface.
